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THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL.71/NO. 29 AUGUST 6, 2007

INSIDE

Socialist Workers Party holds national convention

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Pakistani army attacks Taliban, al-Qaeda forces

BY RÓGER CALERO

July 16—The Pakistani government has moved tens of thousands of troops to the northwestern border with Afghanistan to combat forces connected with the Taliban and al-Qaeda.

The troop deployment comes on the heels of the July 10 storming by Pakistani military units of the Red Mosque religious complex in Islamabad, Pakistan's capital. The Red Mosque was held by heavily armed Islamist forces for more than six months.

The eight-day siege of the complex broke into a 35-hour battle that left more than 100 dead. Those occupying the mosque fought with automatic weapons, rocket launchers, and grenades.

"The [Red Mosque], established in 1965, has long been at the centre of Pakistan's officially encouraged jihadi culture," the *Financial Times* reported July 11. "It played an important role in raising mujahideen—holy warriors—for the CIA-backed battle against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan in the 1980s and its two leading clerics, known as the Ghazi brothers, were long considered untouchable by the authorities, protected by their supposed ties to the intelligence services."

In recent months these forces tried to use the mosque as the organizing center of a push to carry out an "Islamic

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ICE raids Swift plants, arrests 25

BY HELEN MEYERS AND FRANK FORRESTAL

MARSHALLTOWN, Iowa—Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents arrested more than 25 people July 10 who worked at Swift meatpacking plants in Marshalltown, Iowa; Worthington, Minnesota; Cactus, Texas; Hyrum, Utah; Grand Island, Nebraska; and Greeley, Colorado—the same plants which ICE agents raided last December. Many were picked up on the job.

Braulio Pereyra, vice-president of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 1149, was one of six workers arrested here in Marshalltown. The union local represents workers at the Swift plant and at the Tyson plant in nearby Perry, Iowa. Pereyra is charged with "harboring illegal aliens," which carries a five-year maximum prison sentence.

"I'm worried about the reasons for Braulio Pereyra's arrest," said José, a kill floor worker at the Marshalltown plant who asked his last name not be used for fear of retaliation. "Many people could be picked up for what he is charged with."

ICE spokesman Tim Counts called the latest raids a "continuation of the same investigation" that resulted in the arrests of nearly 1,300 Swift workers in six states last December. "Then, we were serving federal search warrants that permitted

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Georgia march demands: 'Free Genarlow Wilson!'

Many call for release of other unjustly imprisoned Black youth



Militant/Maceo Dixon

July 14 march in Douglasville, Georgia, protested harsh sentencing of African Americans.

BY BILL ARTH

DOUGLASVILLE, Georgia, July 14—More than 2,000 people marched today in this small town 30 miles west of Atlanta to demand freedom for Genarlow Wilson. The action helped shine a spotlight on the disproportionate imprisonment and harsh criminal sentencing of African Americans.

Wilson, 21, has served nearly three years of a 10 year sentence. He and five other 17-year-olds—known as the Douglasville Six—were arrested in 2003 after police found a videotape of them having consensual oral sex with a 15-year-old classmate. At the time, Georgia law deemed oral sex with a minor "aggravated child molestation"—a felony with a 10-year minimum sentence—while intercourse is misdemeanor statutory rape.

Conviction on this charge includes lifelong registration as a sex offender.

The West Metro branch of the NAACP organized the march, which began at the Douglas County High School and ended at the county courthouse. The big majority of participants were Black. In addition to local residents, hundreds came from the Atlanta metropolitan area. Many said they had heard about the protest on Black radio stations.

They came to demand Wilson's freedom, but also to protest the racist criminal justice system. Many came to raise other cases of injustice.

"My son was 18. Now 33. Judge Emerson and David McDade gave my son 20 plus 7 years. More time than a mass murderer. Like any other mom, I want justice," read a hand-made sign carried by Virginia Allen, mother of Tracey Allen. She said her son, who had no prior convictions, has spent 15 years in jail after having been convicted for being an unarmed lookout in a robbery.

Kimberly Favors is the mother of Kristopher Watts, who has been in jail since July 2006. Her sign said: "Kristopher

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White House report: military push key to stable client regime in Iraq

BY PAUL PEDERSON

July 13—The White House released a mixed progress report yesterday on Washington's efforts to establish a stable client regime in Iraq. The report comes four weeks after U.S. occupation forces launched Operation Phantom Thunder, the largest ground offensive since the 2003 invasion and subsequent overthrow of the Saddam Hussein government.

The report concluded that "satisfactory" progress was being made by the Iraqi government in 8 of 18 political, military, and economic "benchmarks" set by Washington. These included steps toward establishing semi-autonomous regions in Iraq, forming a Constitutional Review Committee, and aiding Washington's latest military offensive.

Baghdad's inability to come up with an oil law pleasing to the competing capitalist factions in Iraq—and their imperialist overlords—was deemed "unsatisfactory." So too were efforts to reduce factionalism in the armed forces, to suppress local militias, and to establish an Iraqi Army capable of defending the Baghdad regime without tail-ending a substantial U.S. occupation force.

Progress in those areas will only be achieved, the White House report says, after the current offensive "is fully underway and generates improved conditions on the ground."

"Tough fighting should be expected throughout the summer," it notes. The targets of Operation Phantom Thunder are "primarily al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) havens in Baghdad, Babil, Diyala, and Anbar provinces."

"Al-Qaeda in Iraq's key weaknesses are an ideology that does not resonate with Iraqis and an indiscriminate brutality that alienates the people," Gen. David Petraeus, the U.S. commander in Iraq, told the *New York Post* in a July 10 interview. The interview came three days after a massive suicide bomb in a busy marketplace in a Shiite town in Diyala Province killed at least 130 people and injured 240.

Washington has made progress in winning the active support of some local militias and Iraqi politicians in their offensive.

"Until only a few months ago, the Central Street bazaar was enemy territory," a July 8 *New York Times* article noted, describing Ramadi, one of the largest cities in Anbar province, where a U.S. offensive began last November. "Now, a pact between local tribal sheiks and American commanders has sent

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New York political activist Víctor Toro fights deportation

BY BEN O'SHAUGHNESSY AND LUIS MADRID

NEW YORK—"Having read about the treatment given to prisoners in Guantánamo, I immediately identified with them," said Víctor Toro, recalling his July 6 arrest and detention by Homeland Security agents in upstate New York, while aboard an Amtrak train.

"Once they determine you are undocumented, the mistreatment and insults begin," the 65-year-old Chilean activist said during a July 17 interview at his Bronx apartment.

Toro is co-founder of the community organization Vamos a la Peña del Bronx, which provides services to immigrants, the homeless, the unemployed, and people diagnosed as HIV-positive. Toro was returning from California, where he had spent seven months campaigning in the San

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Also Inside:

SWP candidate poised to get on ballot in Pittsburgh


Militant/Tony Lane

PITTSBURGH—Supporters of the Socialist Workers campaign began petitioning here June 23 to put Socialist Workers mayoral candidate Ryan Scott on the ballot.

Scott, a meat packer and a member of the Young Socialists, is shown above campaigning in the city's East Liberty district. Central to his campaign is support of workers' struggles to organize and use union power to defend themselves from the bosses' assaults.

Over the July 14–15 weekend, campaigners fanned out across the city, bringing the total number of signatures to place Scott on the ballot to nearly 2,000, well over the goal of 1,600.

—TONY LANE

'Militant' changes editorship

BY DOUG NELSON

With this issue, the *Militant* has a new editor and managing editor.

Olympia Newton, 29, replaces Argiris Malapanis as editor. Malapanis edited the paper for the last four years. Paul Pederson, 31, is the *Militant's* new managing editor.

Newton joined the *Militant*'s volunteer staff in September 2006. She has covered U.S. politics as well as developments in China, Cuba, north Korea, and Venezuela.

Newton joined the communist movement 10 years ago in Washington, D.C. Before becoming an editorial volunteer for the paper, she worked in the national office of the Socialist Workers Party. She has served on the party's National Committee since 2002.

From 2004 to 2006, Newton lived in Price, Utah, where she was part of organizing solidarity with miners at the Co-Op mine in Huntington, Utah, who fought a three-year battle to organize themselves into the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA). While working in a coal mine, she wrote for the *Militant* on that struggle and on the *Militant* Fighting Fund—a broad labor defense effort to defend the paper from a harassment lawsuit filed against the it, individual Co-Op miners, the UMWA, and scores of supporters of the union-organizing struggle by the Co-Op bosses.


Militant/Doug Nelson

Olympia Newton and Paul Pederson at 'Militant' office.

Over the years, Newton has reported for the *Militant* from Venezuela, Cuba, Vietnam, north Korea, and several countries in Europe. Since 2001, she has represented the Young Socialists leadership at international meetings of the World Federation of Democratic Youth.

Pederson has been a member of the *Militant's* full-time volunteer staff since September 2002, during which time he served as the paper's copy editor and business manager.

He has covered political developments in the Middle East and reported from Western Sahara in 2003 and Palestine in 2004. In 2006, Pederson reported from West Virginia and Kentucky on the response by workers to a rash of mine deaths in those states. He has also written articles on U.S. politics, the labor movement, and the economy.

Pederson joined the communist movement in Minneapolis, Minnesota, after returning from a youth exchange in Cuba in 1996. Before volunteering for the *Militant* staff, he was a meat packer and member of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union in Brooklyn, and Long Island, New York, where he distributed the paper among his co-workers.

A member of the Socialist Workers Party National Committee since 1999, Pederson was on the ballot as the SWP's candidate for U.S. Congress from Brooklyn in 2000 and 2002. He has been the chairperson of the New York branch of the party since 2005.

SWP launches campaign in Philadelphia

BY BOB STANTON

PHILADELPHIA—John Staggs, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Philadelphia, and Osborne Hart, the party's city council at-large candidate, launched their working-class campaigns at a June 23 public forum here.

Staggs, a packinghouse worker, and Hart, a warehouse worker and member of UNITE HERE Local 237, presented the party's platform starting with the interests of workers and farmers worldwide.

The socialist candidates also invited campaign supporters to help collect 4,000 signatures from July 14 to 22 to gain ballot status for the candidates. In the first weekend, campaign supporters collected 1,583 signatures.

At the forum, Staggs said the Socialist Workers campaign calls for the immediate withdrawal of U.S. and all other imperialist troops from Iraq, Afghanistan, and other fronts of Washington's "global war on terror." The campaign also calls on working people to oppose Washington's economic sanctions and military threats against Iran, its cold war against Cuba and, its meddling in Venezuela.

Hart spoke earlier that day at an event in Philadelphia building the June 27–July 1 U.S. Social Forum in Atlanta, in which he later took part. Hart pointed to the 24 killings by police in Philadelphia this year. He said that Democratic Party candidate Michael Nutter's calls for "stop-question-and-frisk" procedures for cops would only increase these assaults and pointed to the importance of joining fights against police brutality.

He also called for an end to immigration raids and deportations. Pointing to the significance of the huge outpourings on May Day over the last two years, Hart explained why the socialist campaign champions the struggle for legalization of all immigrants. The questions of class consciousness and solidarity posed in that fight, he said, are "part of the fight to eliminate the national, ethnic, and racial divisions between workers."

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Australia: cop acquitted in killing of Aborigine



January 27 march in Melbourne, Australia, demanding justice for Mulrunji Doomadgee.

BY MANUELE LASALO AND LINDA HARRIS

SYDNEY, Australia—The first cop in the state of Queensland to be put on trial for an Aboriginal death in custody was found not guilty June 20 by an all-white jury.

Senior Sergeant Christopher Hurley had been charged with one count each of manslaughter and assault for the death of Mulrunji Doomadgee on Palm Island in November 2004. Doomadgee died from his liver being split in two when it was compressed on his spine. He suffered four broken ribs.

Following an autopsy in 2004, which exonerated the cops, angry residents of Palm Island burned the police station, barracks, and courthouse to the ground. Palm Island is an Aboriginal community of about 4,000, in north Queensland. Protests took place in Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane on June 22 against the decision to acquit Hurley.

"It's just like they have been given a license to kill," Lex Wotton, one of those charged with rioting on Palm Island in 2004, told Channel 7 news. He called the verdict "a green light for men in police uniform to go out and commit murder."

During the trial, Guy Lampe, the pathologist who conducted the two autopsies on Doomadgee, said that the split liver that killed him was likely caused by a knee being forced into his abdomen.

Hurley admitted in the trial that he "must have come into contact" with Doomadgee, causing the injuries that killed him. On three occasions he had told investigating police he had fallen beside Doomadgee and not on top of him.

Hurley has now been reinstated on active duty.

Over the last two and half years, Doomadgee's family and local Aborigines have led a campaign of protest actions calling for justice. The campaign put pressure on the Queensland state government to review the initial decision not to press charges against Hurley.

"This has not ended the way we wanted it to," said Gracelyn Smallwood, an Aboriginal activist, after the verdict. "But it has been a win on our slow climb up the Everest of justice."

Less than a week after Hurley's acquittal, Alan Lee-Choo, a 44-year-old Aboriginal stockman, died in the back of a police van less than half an hour after being detained over the alleged theft of a horse.

The day after Hurley's acquittal, Australian prime minister John Howard announced that cops and troops would be sent into Northern Territory indigenous communities to enforce bans on alcohol and pornography, mandatory medical checks for all Aboriginal children, and restrictions on welfare. The government justified these attacks against Aborigines by claiming they are part of a plan to stop child sex abuse.

Families in New Orleans demand justice for relatives killed by cops

BY SALM KOLIS

"After the storm [Hurricane Katrina], we experienced a big increase of murders at the hands of the cops, and many of the victims were mentally ill," said Norris Henderson, co-director of the New Orleans group Safe Streets, Strong Communities, in a June 30 interview at the U.S. Social Forum in Atlanta. "In fact the first few murders after Katrina were at the hands of the cops."

Henderson said the group was founded in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina "to address the problems of police brutality, unjust defense, and jail conditions."

Six days after the storm struck New Orleans in August 2005, Ronald and Lance Madison, two African American brothers, were crossing Danzinger Bridge when a group of cops pulled up in a rental truck. Without identifying themselves as officers, the policemen opened fire on six others on the bridge.

The Madisons started running away from the shooting. Ronald, 47, who was mentally retarded, was shot twice in the shoulder. James Barset, 19, was killed, and four others were injured.

Lance carried Ronald to a nearby motel and went for help. When he returned, his brother had been shot five more times in the back and was dead.

Lance was arrested and charged with attempted murder.

"The cops feel they can do whatever they want and get away with it," said Romell Madison, brother of Lance and Ronald, who also attended the U.S. Social Forum.

In a CNN interview in 2006, Kasmir Gaston explained that he saw cops lined up "like at a firing range" and fatally shoot Ronald Madison in the back as he ran from the cops. "He just fell like he was collapsing."

After a grand jury heard testimony in the case, charges against Lance Madison were dropped, and charges of first-degree murder were brought against four of the cops involved in the fatal shooting.

The others who were shot by the cops on Danzinger Bridge have filed federal civil rights lawsuits against the city. The Madison family is still waiting for the criminal trial against the cops that killed Ronald.

The Madison case has received both local and national publicity. Robert Goodman, an organizer for Safe Streets, Strong Communities, explained, "We try to work together to help show Ronald Madison's killing isn't an isolated incident."

Goodman's brother Ronald was killed by the cops in New Orleans in May 2006. Goodman related the story in an interview with the *Militant*.

Like Ronald Madison, Ronald Goodman, 40, was mentally retarded. Unable to get him admitted to a mental facility in February 2006, his family cared for him in his mother's house. Without proper medical attention, though, his condition deteriorated. In May his mother called the cops to take him to a hospital.

According to Goodman, the cops arrived at the house around 8:00 p.m. They claimed they heard gunfire, brought in a SWAT team, and sealed off the block. At 2:30 a.m. the first shots were fired.

The cops refused to let the family enter the house or communicate with Ronald by bullhorn.

During the siege, Goodman said, family members overheard cops bragging on their radio, "We have him on the bed crying for his mama."

Two hours later, after initially telling the family that Ronald was fine, they admitted he had been killed.

"We have a lot of questions for the cops," said Goodman. "Why was there no evidence of Ronald having shot a gun? Why tear gas the house after the shooting? Why was Ronald brought to the morgue in handcuffs?"

"Right now," he continued, "the only option open to us is a civil suit. But we don't care about the money. We only hope to use the civil suit to bring out the facts."

"No amount of money will bring my son back," explained Ronald's 87-year-old mother.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis

Celebrate July 26 and 48 Years of Cuba's Internationalism. A panel discussion. Fri., July 27. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation, $5 dinner, $5 program. *1311½ E. Lake St. Tel.: (612) 729-1205.*

TEXAS

Houston

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution. Speakers: Amanda Ulman, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., July 27. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation, $5 dinner, $5 program. *4800 W. 34th St., Suite C-51A. Tel.: (713) 688-4919.*

—CALENDAR—

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Celebrate the Attack on the Moncada Barracks and the Launch of the Cuban Revolution. Friday, July 27, 6:30 p.m. Martin Luther King Jr. Labor Center at SEIU 1199 building 310 W. 43rd Street (bet. 8th and 9th Ave.) For more information: (917) 887-8710.

Natives hold rallies across Canada demanding land and basic services

BY SANDRA MITCHELL

OTTAWA, Ontario—Aboriginal groups in Canada staged nationwide protests and some transportation closures as part of a National Day of Action June 29. The actions were called by the Assembly of First Nations (AFN).

The mobilizations helped "inform people about the devastating conditions native people face and help build solidarity with our fight for justice," Sylvester Green, an elder from the Nisga'a Nation in northern British Columbia, said at an action of 500 in Vancouver.

In Toronto, 500 marched in two separate actions. One of the rallies numbered 300, the majority of them members of the Mississauga band. The Mississauga has unsettled land claims in Toronto. Nationwide, more than 800 unsettled land claims are currently backlogged in Canadian courts.

Angus Toulouse, the Ontario regional chief of the First Nations, told the Toronto rally, "We are here to send a message to the governments that we are standing together."

In the small northwestern Ontario town of Kenora, 250 people protested. The Grand Council there represents 28 First Nation bands with 80 unsettled claims.

Approximately one hundred rallies and marches took place across the country with well over 5,000 participating. Hundreds—the big majority Natives—marched in Winnipeg and Edmonton. In Regina, Saskatchewan, 100 protested.

Here in Ottawa, 2,000 people marched from City Hall to Victoria Island carrying signs that said "Make Native Poverty History." AFN Grand Chief Phil Fontaine told the crowd, "We are looking for the basic necessities of life that come with being Canadian—clean drinking water, decent housing, education, and health care." In Deseronto, Ontario, protesters lit bonfires on a highway and parked a bus on a Canadian National railway track. The blockade was taken down a few hours later. Last April, Mohawks blockaded rail lines for 30 hours there to protest violations of a long-standing land claim.

In Montreal, Mohawks from the Kahnawake reserve shut down the Mercier Bridge for an hour as 150 people marched and listened to speeches by Native leaders. The one-hour shutdown was a symbolic act of solidarity with a previous action by Mohawks from Kanesetake in 1990 when federal government mobilized police and troops to force them to remove a barricade they had erected to prevent the expansion of a golf course on their lands.

Steve Penner and Joe Young contributed to this article.

Swift raids

Continued from front page

us to go into these plants and question every employee," he said. "In this case, we were looking for specific individuals—a much more focused and highly targeted operation."

The Federal Trade Commission, the Social Security Administration's Office of Inspector General, four U.S. Attorney's Offices, and two District Attorney's Offices assisted in preparing the arrests.

ICE agents also arrested Christopher Lamb, assistant director of Human Resources at the Marshalltown plant. He was charged with "harboring illegal aliens" and "misprision of a felony," or the failure to report a felony crime.

According to a front page article in the July 13 *Des Moines Register,* Lamb was the target of an ICE operation that included a worker, Alejandro Vasquez, who had been picked up in the December raid. ICE agents monitored conversations between Lamb and Vasquez via a concealed microphone the latter wore. Later, Vasquez applied for a job at the Swift plant with an ICE-provided valid Social Security card and a Texas birth certificate in the name of Anthony Gomez. He was rehired.

Counts called the arrests of both Pereyra and Lamb "significant."

ICE agents entered the Grand Island, Nebraska, plant with warrants for five workers. Dan Hoppes, president of the UFCW local at the plant, said the raid "was done the right way this time. Not like the last time, for crying out loud." In December, ICE agents arrested 261 workers at the Nebraska plant.

On the day of the raids, the UFCW issued a press release that said, "It does not appear that ICE engaged in the same level of intimidation and overkill as they did in its raids last December… To the extent this is the case, the UFCW supports law enforcement efforts that abide by the law and respect the rights of workers."

Later, Jill Cashen, spokesperson for the union's national office, said in relation to Pereyra's arrest, "This is the first time a union employee has been charged in an immigration case. We're concerned and we're anxious to get all the information to make sure he's not being held accountable for things that are not his responsibility. We don't hire. We're not required to check immigration status."

While most of the July 10 arrests took place at the plants, some workers were arrested in their homes. In at least one case, workers refused to talk to ICE agents.

"At about six in the morning three ICE agents knocked on my door asking for Juan, my husband," Elizabeth Yepez, who is originally from Michoacán, México, told the Iowa Spanish-language weekly *El Latino.* "When I told them I didn't know where he was they started to ask me if I had documents and I said that I wasn't going to speak, that I wasn't going to tell them if I had documents or not."

Verónica Guevara, Juan and Elizabeth's niece, rushed to the house while the ICE agents were there. "The agents were upset when I told my aunt to not answer them," Guevara said. The ICE agents said they would return with an arrest order for Yepez.

After the cops left, Yepez took refuge at a nearby church with her children. Hours later the ICE agents returned with an arrest order, but she was no longer at home.

Two days after the raids, several dozen marched in Denver calling for an end to immigration raids and deportations. Two Swift supervisors were arrested July 10 in Greeley, Colorado, a town about 65 miles north of Denver.

Elsewhere, 13 workers were arrested at the Swift plant in Cactus, Texas, about 65 miles north of Amarillo. Lety Laura, a librarian in Cactus, was outside the plant in the early morning of July 10, according to the *Amarillo Globe-News.* She described two white vans and about a dozen ICE officials at the plant. A plane circled overhead while agents were at the facility.

All but 53 of the 295 workers arrested in the December raid in Cactus have been deported. Of the 1,297 Swift workers arrested nationwide on immigration charges as of July 12, 274 have been criminally charged with "identity theft" or related offenses.

Frank Forrestal is a worker on the kill floor at the Swift slaughterhouse in Marshalltown. Steve Warshell in Houston contributed to this article.

California bus drivers win weeklong strike



Militant/James Harris

ANAHEIM, California—Striking drivers picket the Orange County Transit Authority (OCTA) bus depot here July 11. More than 1,100 bus drivers waged a successful strike against OCTA July 7–14. The members of Teamsters Local 952 won gains in wages, pensions, and medical benefits. Strikers said that only two union members crossed the line, and that the mechanics, whose contract will expire later this year, honored the pickets.

—NAOMI CRAINE

Víctor Toro

Continued from front page

Francisco Bay Area for legalization of undocumented immigrants.

He was imprisoned at the Cayuga County Jail in Auburn, near the Canadian border, and kept in a cell with 10 other undocumented immigrants. Released July 10 on $5,000 bail, he now faces deportation. No date has been set for further proceedings.

Toro and his family are reaching out for solidarity in his fight against deportation.

"They strip you naked and give you orange jumpsuits," he said, describing his arrival at prison. "It is humiliating."

Some cells had 50 or more undocumented workers, Toro explained. Among those detained on the train, "there were Asians, Russians, Pakistanis, Mexicans, and other nationalities," said Toro. While in jail, "I was able to discuss with Mexicans and others the situation faced by millions. I also learned that some people have been there for three months, others a year," added Toro.

"It's common now for *la migra* to check buses and trains, that's part of the broader assault" against immigrants, he said. "They boarded the train with dogs. Some people on board protested, but they went seat by seat checking everyone's documents," he recalled.

The underground cells of the Cayuga jail also reminded Toro of his imprisonment under the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet in Chile. Jailed there in 1974 because of his opposition to the regime, Toro was kept a year in the underground prison at the War Academy of the Chilean Air Force and labeled "disappeared." He then was "toured" through other jails before fleeing to Sweden in 1976.

After several years of moving from country to country, he crossed the U.S.-Mexican border in 1984 and eventually settled in the Bronx.

Toro has applied for a new Chilean passport several times but has been told that he is officially classified as "dead."

"I'm an undocumented willing to defend his rights in face of U.S. 'justice.' A lesson that can be learned from my case is that any undocumented can defend himself," Toro stressed. "But you've got to fight."

Judge blocks implementation of anti-immigrant law in Texas town

BY STEVE WARSHELL

HOUSTON—Federal District Judge Sam Lindsay issued an injunction June 19 against the city of Farmers Branch, Texas. The ruling prevents the city from implementing a law banning landlords from renting to illegal immigrants, until a lawsuit by apartment complex owners, tenants, and others is resolved in a trial or is settled.

The ordinance requires apartment managers to verify that renters are U.S. citizens or legal immigrants before leasing to them. Landlords who break the rule could be punished by fines of up to $500 per day.

The plaintiffs in the lawsuit against the city include the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), the American Civil Liberties Union, and a group of 43 businesses and apartment complex owners. They requested the injunction to block the law from going into effect as scheduled on June 26.

In his 33-page ruling, Judge Lindsay agreed with the plaintiffs, rejecting all of the city's arguments defending the ordinance.

"The court concludes that only the federal government may determine whether an individual is legally in the United States. Farmers Branch . . . has created its own classification scheme for determining which noncitizens may rent an apartment in that city," Judge Lindsay wrote. "It is clear… the ordinance makes the provision of immigration documentation a 'prerequisite' to the renting of an apartment."

Lindsay said the plaintiffs proved they had a "substantial likelihood" of winning the case on its merits. The judge refused the city's request that he edit the ordinance to try to make it constitutionally acceptable. "Any attempt to rewrite the ordinance would require the court to legislate by creating an entirely new ordinance," Lindsay wrote.

MALDEF staff attorney Marisol Perez said her organization will press the trial court to make the injunction permanent. William Brewer III, a Dallas lawyer representing the apartment owners, said he will ask for damages at trial. "There is no doubt this ordinance has had a chilling effect on our ability to attract Hispanic tenants," he said.

Day laborers plan convention

WASHINGTON—The National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON) will hold its fourth annual national convention August 2–5 in Silver Spring, Maryland, a suburb of Washington, D.C. Some two hundred day laborers and organizers from around the country are expected to attend and take part in discussions and workshops including "What to do during a raid," "How to organize on the street corners," "Winning back wages," "Labor Health and Safety," "English for Day Laborers" and "History of the Labor Movement."

NDLON is an umbrella group for more than 30 organizations nationwide that organize day laborers. A year ago it entered into a partnership with the AFL-CIO labor federation aimed at improving the wages and working conditions of immigrants and others who work construction, landscaping, cleaning, and other jobs on a day-to-day basis.

John Arvizu, NDLON development director said in a July 16 phone interview that several dozen member organizations will send delegations from Southern California, Chicago, Denver, Phoenix, Austin, New York, New Jersey, Florida, and elsewhere. The convention, which takes place every two years, is an opportunity for day laborers to share experiences and compare organizing strategies, Arvizu said. In addition to workshops and meetings, the day laborers will organize press conferences, rallies, and marches to highlight fights by day laborers in the region.

—SETH DELLINGER

New Zealand miners strike, press for wage increases

BY TERRY COGGAN

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—After almost two weeks on strike, 136 coal miners from the Spring Creek and Terrace mines in the South Island voted July 9 to suspend their action as they head into mediation on their contract with the state-owned Solid Energy company and its contractors.

AS WE GO TO PRESS…

Miners at Solid Energy mines on the South Island's west coast resumed job actions July 18 in solidarity with miners at the company's Rotowaro mine, who were locked out July 17 and are picketing in a fight for a wage settlement.

"We've been on strike for the last 11 days," Glen Campbell, president of the Engineering, Printing and Manufacturing Union (EPMU) at Spring Creek, told the *Militant* in a July 9 phone interview. "I think it's the longest strike in a coal mine for 14 to 15 years. It's been very solid." Spring Creek and Terrace miners maintained picket lines at the Spring Creek mine.

The workers began their strike June 29 after Solid Energy refused to transport Spring Creek miners from their bathhouse to the mine entrance. The bosses told the workers they would have to walk two kilometers in full mining gear, often in stormy weather, up an industrial road used by heavy vehicles—a clear threat to their safety.

"We said that's a lockout," said Campbell, who is also a working miner, "and that's what sparked the strike."

According to an EPMU media release, the company took the action to punish the workers for carrying out a two-hour work stoppage at the beginning of their shift. The stoppage was part of a nationwide campaign of rolling strikes and overtime bans by more than 800 coal miners around the country. They are pressing for a wage increase as part of a new collective agreement. The fight takes place in the context of an export boom for coal mined in New Zealand.

About 100 Spring Creek and Terrace miners marched with their pay slips and copies of their contract to the offices of the *Greymouth Star* newspaper July 6 to protest a media release by Solid Energy which they said "wildly exaggerated" their incomes.



Photo courtesy of Greymouth Star

Striking New Zealand miners protest outside offices of the *Greymouth Star* newspaper July 6. In the foreground are leaders of the Engineering, Printing and Manufacturing Union (EPMU). Left to right: Glen Campbell, union president at the Spring Creek mine; Harold Gribben, vice-president; and Matt Winter, EPMU organizer.

Pathfinder titles sought out at national librarians conference

BY JANICE LYNN

WASHINGTON—"Pathfinder! I grew up on Pathfinder," exclaimed Martin Burrows, one of 27,000 people attending the national conference of the American Library Association here. Burrows was among more than 60 librarians from university and public libraries who signed up to be contacted by local Pathfinder sales volunteers after stopping at the publisher's booth at the conference.

PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

At the June 23–26 book exhibit, librarians from around the world picked up flyers and brochures promoting the range of Pathfinder Press titles on revolutionary working-class topics. The booth featured the two latest books from the publishing house, *The First and Second Declarations of Havana: Manifestos of revolutionary struggle in the Americas adopted by the Cuban people* and *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution.*

Librarians from San Francisco, New York, and elsewhere were familiar with the latest titles as a result of meetings promoting *Our History Is Still Being Written* held in their cities over the last year, and several had already ordered them.

Of special note was the number of librarians seeking Spanish-language titles for their collections. Librarians from Buffalo, New York, wanted the books for a growing Puerto Rican population there, and librarians from Delaware wanted the titles for increasing numbers of Guatemalan immigrants in small towns in that state, to name a few.

One librarian from Lexington, Kentucky, was pleased to see the French-language books for the growing West African population in that city.

Others were interested in Pathfinder's titles for their Black studies collections, including a librarian from Mississippi.

Two librarians from Haiti invited Pathfinder to participate in a November book fair in Port-au-Prince. They said there is a lot of interest there in Pathfinder's titles featuring speeches of Thomas Sankara, the revolutionary leader from the African country of Burkina Faso.

Protest in D.C. counters slander campaign against Cuba

BY TIM MAILHOT

WASHINGTON—Opponents of Washington's hostilities against the Cuban Revolution countered an anti-Cuba slander campaign on the edges of the American Library Association (ALA) conference, held here June 21–27.

About a dozen people, mainly members of the local coalition No War on Cuba, held an informational picket line outside the conference opening June 23. They were responding to a picket of equal size by an outfit calling itself "Friends of Cuban Libraries," which was handing out flyers falsely accusing the Cuban government of persecution of independent librarians in Cuba and banning, seizing, and burning of library collections.

The "Friends of Cuban Libraries" has received money from the U.S.-financed Freedom House. None of the "independent librarians" the group purports to defend are librarians. They are all members of small political groups on the island that oppose the revolution and depend on U.S. government funding.

New York librarian Robert Kent, organizer of "Friends of Cuban Libraries," has a long record of activity against the Cuban Revolution. His attempts to the get the ALA and the International Federation of Library Associations to back his smear campaign have failed over the years. The right-wing group has recently been protesting the inclusion of two documentaries about Cuba at the Princeton Human Rights Film Festival at the Princeton Public Library in May: *¡Salud!*, and *The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil.* Leslie Burger, the library's director, is the current ALA president.

"I've followed the Friends of Cuban Libraries since 1999, when they started asking for ALA resolutions protesting the treatment of independent librarians in Cuba," said Anne Sparanese, a librarian at the conference who joined the counter-picket. "The problem goes back to the Helms-Burton bill that mandated support to anti-government organizations in Cuba… This isn't about libraries or librarians or intellectual freedom."

The counter-picket got a good reception from many librarians and other passersby. Participants passed out flyers explaining that before the triumph of the revolution in 1959, there were only 32 libraries in the entire country. Today there are more than 400 public libraries and 6,000 school libraries. The flyer also explained how a massive literacy campaign mobilizing hundreds of thousands of Cuban youth and others eradicated illiteracy in the country in one year.

Michael Kodjo, a taxi driver originally from Ghana who passed by the counter-picket, said he was glad someone was telling Cuba's side. "Many Cuban doctors serve in my country, and all over Africa," he said. He asked for extra flyers to give to his friends.

"I knew Cuba was probably doing something right if the U.S. government hated it so much," said Adwoa Mazosi, who came to help get out the truth about Cuba. "I've been learning more about Cuba. I've heard how with limited resources Cubans have improved their economic situation and revolutionized people's thinking on all levels," she said.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

25 CENTS
THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY/PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

August 6, 1982

As the *Militant* goes to press the Israeli army has been held at bay outside of West Beirut for seven weeks. A few thousand Palestinian liberation troops, without the planes, without the tanks, without the warships that are at the disposal of the Israeli high command, have fought back valiantly.

Added to the Israeli military pressure against the Palestine Liberation Organization has been intensive political pressure from Washington. The PLO has held fast against that too.

Zionist officials have repeatedly warned that if the negotiations do not achieve Israeli objectives—the disarming of the PLO fighters and their expulsion from Lebanon—they will resort to a large-scale offensive against West Beirut.

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

August 5, 1957

The world-wide demand to stop nuclear bomb tests, raised by scientists of unimpeachable authority and tens of millions of people, has run into one stall after another. The fateful issue threatens to be buried in the quagmire of diplomacy and doubletalk.

We socialists have never believed that disarmament was the solution to the continued threat of war in our epoch. We have said the working class must destroy capitalism, the social system that breeds war…. But the mass demands to stop nuclear tests… are an entirely different thing than the cynical maneuverings of war mongers who screen their war preparations with the camouflage of a disarmament conference table.

THE MILITANT
Weekly Organ of the Communist League of America [Opposition]

August 6, 1932

The governor of Indiana has declared martial law in the vicinity of the Dixie Bee Mine, in Vigo County. He has sent 1,000 National Guardsmen to enforce this order. For what purpose is all this display of martial strength?

Is the governor driving out the gangsters or the bootleggers? No! The National Guard is seldom used in that capacity. As was to be expected, the N.G. is used against the workers of the district. 4,000 union miners have been engaged in an attempt to keep scabs from working in the mine. With arms in hand the union miners have driven the scabs from the colliery. In one of the encounters between the union miners and the deputy thugs, one of the union men was murdered and several injured.

Socialist Workers Party holds national convention

Delegates discuss party's role in emerging working-class vanguard

BY LAUREN HART AND PAUL PEDERSON

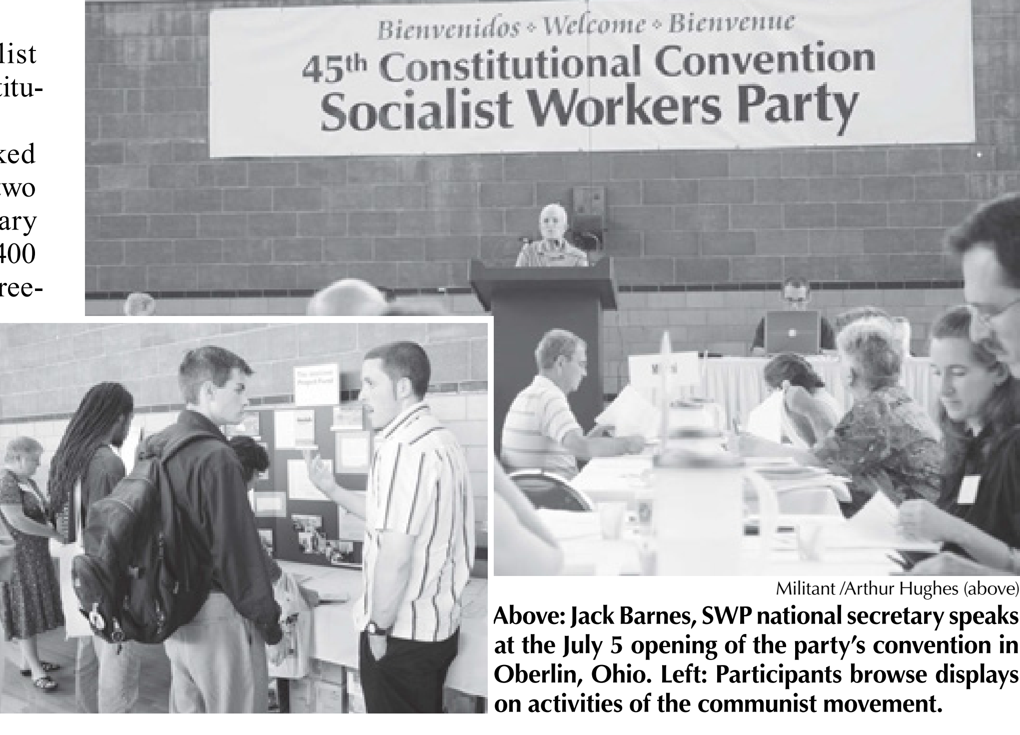
OBERLIN, Ohio—The Socialist Workers Party held its 45th Constitutional Convention here July 5–7.

"This convention will be marked above all by the meaning of the last two May Days," SWP national secretary Jack Barnes said in welcoming the 400 delegates and observers to the three-day gathering. He was referring to mass proletarian actions on May Day—which brought 2 million workers into the streets in 2006 and nearly half a million in 2007—demanding legalization of undocumented immigrants.

"It will be marked by the development of the Young Socialists as an organization," he continued. "And by the political place of the revolutionary party within a developing mass working-class vanguard. It will shed new light on the place of revolutionists in the trade unions; on the place of our program, our books. And how all of this is connected to the unique place of Cuba and its revolutionary communist leadership."

Comprised of delegates elected by party branches in 16 cities across the United States as well as fraternal delegations from Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada, Iceland, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom, the convention is the highest decision-making body of the party. Delegates discussed and voted on documents and reports to chart a political course for the communist movement and elected a national leadership.

Among the observers and guests were people hailing from 10 countries, 167 organized supporters of the Socialist Workers Party, and 26 members of the Young Socialists.



Militant /Arthur Hughes (above)

Above: Jack Barnes, SWP national secretary speaks at the July 5 opening of the party's convention in Oberlin, Ohio. Left: Participants browse displays on activities of the communist movement.

The Cuban Revolution in the world

Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder Press and a member of the SWP National Committee, presented a report titled "Politics of the 'Our History' Party Building Campaign."

Since the party's convention last year, Waters reported, 36 meetings have been held in 28 cities to discuss the Pathfinder title *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*. Over 100 individuals have spoken on panels in these meetings, and over 2,900 have attended them.

"Many who are familiar with Pathfinder have said this book is one of the best of the series we have published on the Cuban Revolution," Waters said. But the quality of this book is not the only reason that it has generated such interest, she said.

"Above all what it has tapped into is the transformation of the working class and the development of a working-class vanguard, and the place of immigrant workers in that vanguard," Waters said. She pointed out that China, which did not rank in the top 10 countries of birth among the U.S. immigrant population prior to 1990, now ranks as number two.

"The growing attraction of the Cuban Revolution in the world today" has also led to increased interest in this book, Waters said. "These were overwhelmingly new forces at these meetings. We are bringing the Cuban Revolution to an audience that is totally new to it."

There are similar opportunities to reach out broadly to work with others, she said, around events marking the 20th anniversary of the Oct. 15, 1987, assassination of Thomas Sankara, the central leader of a 1983–87 revolution in the West African country Burkina Faso.

Pathfinder plans to publish eight books of Sankara's speeches this fall. These include new editions of the book *Thomas Sankara Speaks* in English and French, and new editions of the pamphlets *Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle* and *We Are Heirs of the World's Revolutions* in English, French, and Spanish. At a closing rally July 7, Michel Paquette, a leader of the Communist League in Canada, spoke about how the books will be promoted at events to commemorate Sankara this fall in Africa, North America, and Europe.

Available at the convention for the first time was a Spanish translation of major sections of *The Struggle for a Proletarian Party*. The book describes a fight within the SWP on the eve of World War II to defend the party's theoretical foundations, political principles, and organizational methods. New editions of the book in English and the full book in Spanish are being prepared.

Also slated for publication this fall is *The Second American Revolution: Marx and Engels on the 1860–65 U.S. Civil War,* which chronologically presents the writings of the founders of the modern communist movement about this momentous historical event.

"Slavery was overturned in a tide of blood by free farmers and workers of North America and by the northern industrial bourgeoisie in a progressive leap for all humanity," Waters said of the upcoming title. The book will be an aid in teaching revolutionists to think historically, she said.

A conference including classes, films, and other activities took place alongside the convention.

Two classes focused on the writings of Marx and Engels on the U.S. Civil War. Others included "The 40th Anniversary of the Death in Combat and the Political Trajectory and Contributions of Che Guevara"; "The Working Class and the Evolving Fronts in Washington's War Against Terrorism"; "Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State"; "Thomas Sankara: Africa and the World Twenty Years After"; "The Struggle for a Proletarian Party"; and "Immigration, Labor, and the Class Struggle in the United Kingdom and Ireland."

Developing working-class vanguard

The Political Report by Barnes and the Trade Union Report by SWP National Committee member Alyson Kennedy both focused on the place of the revolutionary party within a developing working-class vanguard—comprised in its majority of immigrant workers.

Barnes noted that these initial developments take place within the context of the continued weakening of the labor movement, which continues to be marked by setbacks and stalemates today. "You are blind to it if you're not within it," he said. "If you are not within this section of this working-class movement you are disqualified politically and will come crosswise with the vanguard."

This, Barnes explained, is the entire meaning of the party's 1998 decision to focus its trade union work on the industries where the bosses' assaults have been the fiercest and the potential for resistance, the greatest—specifically in packinghouses, garment shops, textile mills, and coal mines.

With increased possibilities to recruit vanguard workers, Barnes said, the party will "let no forms stand in the way" of going through experiences with those attracted to the communist movement and building a party together with them.

"The bosses can't live without immigrant workers, and at the same time they can't live with a rising confidence and militancy in a large section of the working class," said Kennedy. Washington's position in the world capitalist order depends on continuing to incorporate massive amounts of immigrant labor to drive down wages, intensify labor, and increase profit rates, she noted. That's why the U.S. rulers cannot agree on an immigration "reform" bill, and why they will increasingly lash out with violence in immigration raids, at the border, and through probes such as the cop riot in Los Angeles on May Day.

During the discussion on Kennedy's report, Ellie García, a delegate from Atlanta, described common work she is involved in with her coworkers at a large garment factory in Georgia. Together they are using the *Militant* to reach out more broadly inside and outside the plant and in political activity, from introducing the paper to workers in other industries in the region, to participating in an antiwar demonstration in Washington, D.C. They bring these experiences back to the workplace to extend the political discussions there.

SWP members in Atlanta have also begun to get jobs with workers in different plants and industries where such collaboration is open to them, she said.

Young Socialists strengthened

"The communist movement scored

Continued on page 7

Socialist Workers Party National Committee

Elected at 45th Constitutional Convention

Regular

Jack Barnes	Ellie García	Sam Manuel	Jacob Perasso
Róger Calero	James Harris	Diana Newberry	Norton Sandler
Steve Clark	Alyson Kennedy	Olympia Newton	Mary-Alice Waters
Bill Estrada	Martín Koppel	Paul Pederson	

Alternate

1. Paul Mailhot
2. Laura Garza
3. Ved Dookhun
4. Frank Forrestal
5. Karl Butts
6. Willie Cotton
7. Rebecca Williamson
8. Carlos Samaniego

Young Socialists map out plans at national meeting

This column is written and edited by members of the Young Socialists, a revolutionary socialist youth organization. For more information contact the YS at 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018; tel.: (212) 629-6649; e-mail: youngsocialists@mac.com.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS IN ACTION

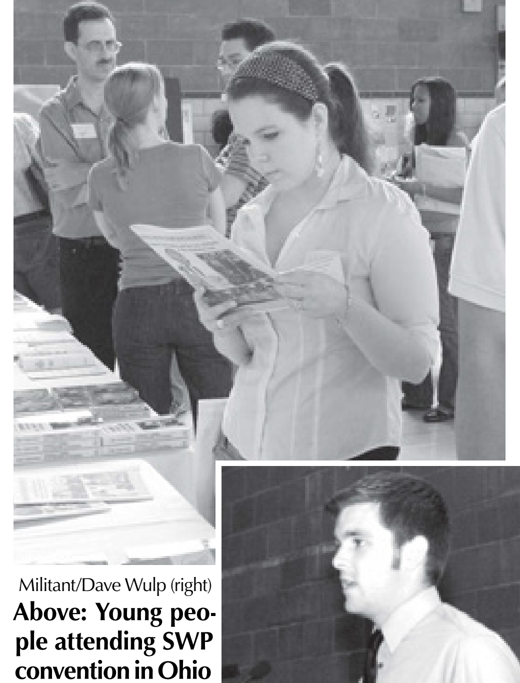
BY EDDIE BECK AND MAURA DE LUCA

OBERLIN, Ohio—The Young Socialists held a national meeting here July 8 to map out perspectives for the coming months. The meeting, which was also attended by guests from fraternal Young Socialists organizations in four countries, was held the day after the conclusion of the Socialist Workers Party 45th constitutional convention.

"What we saw at the U.S. Social Forum was the consolidation of the Young Socialists as a national organization," said Ben O'Shaughnessy, the organizer of the YS National Steering Committee. More than a dozen young people joined the communist movement's efforts at the U.S. Social Forum in Atlanta, June 27–July 1. "We can now look toward taking full advantage of the opportunities in front of us to build a communist youth organization today."

More than 35 young people from 7 countries participated in the SWP convention and conference here. The figure includes YS members from the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Sweden, New Zealand, and Australia. Students came from a range of campuses—from Albany, New York, and Moscow, Idaho, to Brussels, Belgium, and Christchurch, New Zealand. Others were young workers from Los Angeles; Atlanta; Stockholm, Sweden; and elsewhere.

The YS had its own fraternal delegation to the convention. Young people who were not delegates observed convention sessions involving political reports and discussions. They also participated in organized discussions on convention deliberations and conference topics.



Militant/Dave Wulp (right)

Above: Young people attending SWP convention in Ohio discuss politics and check out Marxist literature. Right: Ben Joyce, a member of the YS National Steering Committee, speaks at July 7 closing rally.

"I think it is important to be a part of the struggles today such as the May Day mobilizations for immigrant rights with the strengthening of a whole layer of the working class," said Lindsey Mangeri, 20, a student at the State University of New York at Albany, reflecting on the convention discussions. "You can analyze what has already happened and apply those lessons to today."

"I learned a lot," said Loretta Van Pelt, 27, a YS member from the Twin Cities. "I understand class polarization more. I'm better armed to say something in defense of legalization."

Youth at the conference also attended classes on subjects like Washington's "war on terror" to the example of revolutionary leaders Thomas Sankara and Ernesto Che Guevara.

"I went to the class on Che, and it really hit home," said Ingrid Franco, a student at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey, who joined the YS at the convention. "I decided to become a member of the YS because I think it's really important to not only study these things, but to put them into practice through political activity."

Two other young people also joined the YS here.

Coming out of its international meeting, the YS is heading into the rest of the summer and fall with a wide range of activity, looking to build strong chapters across the U.S. Immediately following the activities in Oberlin, young socialists joined petitioning teams to help get Socialist Workers candidates on the ballot. At the same time, they are continuing with summer educational programs.

"We will not build the organization on ideas alone," said O'Shaughnessy. "It will be by combining revolutionary ideas with action as part of a regular political rhythm."

Georgia action: 'Free Genarlow Wilson!'

Continued from front page

Watts. First Offender. Still sentenced 7 years w/2 years to serve in jail only for a $50 charge."

Rotunda Nelson carried a sign for her son, Wesley Babe Nelson. He was charged with armed robbery for holding up a store with a BB gun when he was 15 years old. He was sentenced to 20 years in prison, with a minimum of 11 years before eligibility for parole.

"He made a mistake, he's not a criminal," she told the *Militant.* "Twenty years is longer than he's been alive. He just turned 17 last Saturday. They're taking his life away." Her son is in the same prison as Wilson.

According to a recent study by the National Urban League, a nationwide Black rights organization, African American men are more than twice as likely to be unemployed as white men, and almost seven times more likely to be incarcerated. Georgia had the third-highest growth rate in the United States in prison population last year. Of the 2.2 million federal, state, county, and city prisoners last year, nearly 60 percent were Black or Hispanic.

Since the Wilson case, the state legislature has changed the law, making Wilson's "offense" a misdemeanor with a maximum jail term of 12 months and no registry as a sex offender. The change is not retroactive, however, so Wilson's sentence stands.

While the other five young men arrested with Wilson agreed to plead guilty in exchange for a lesser sentence, Wilson refused.

"I just could not live with myself having that label [of child molester] for the rest of my life," Wilson said in a 2006 jailhouse interview with *Atlanta Magazine* after his conviction. "Even after serving time in prison I would have to register as a sex offender wherever I lived and if I applied for a job for the rest of my life, all for participating in a consensual sex act with a girl just two years younger than me," he said. "It's a lifelong sentence in itself. I AM NOT A CHILD MOLESTER!"

On June 14, Monroe County Superior Court Judge Thomas H. Wilson ruled that Genarlow Wilson's sentence violated the state constitution as cruel and unusual punishment. The judge changed Wilson's felony conviction to a misdemeanor, resentenced him to 12 months and ordered his immediate release. But state Attorney General Thurbert Baker blocked his release by announcing he would appeal the judge's ruling to the Georgia Supreme Court. Douglas County Superior Court Judge David Emerson then ruled that Wilson is not eligible for bond during the appeal, keeping him in jail in spite of the fact that a court ruling has overturned his conviction and sentence. The state Supreme Court will hear the appeal on July 20.

Douglas County District Attorney David McDade has spearheaded the effort to keep Wilson in prison. McDade distributed to reporters the videotape that was used as evidence in his trial. U.S. Attorney David Nahmias has since warned that possession of the tape violates federal child pornography laws. Some of Wilson's supporters are calling for charges to be filed against McDade.

Socialist Workers Party holds convention

Continued from page 6

a victory at the first-ever U.S. Social Forum in Atlanta June 27–July 1," said Ben O'Shaughnessy, organizer of the YS National Steering Committee. O'Shaughnessy reported that some 50 young socialists, party members, supporters, and contacts of the communist movement effectively joined in the wide-ranging discussions and debates there.

They met young people, workers, and farmers from across the United States attracted to the ideas they presented. Nearly 250 participants in the Social Forum subscribed to the *Militant,* and close to 100 bought copies of the latest issues of the Marxist magazine *New International*. "In the coming weeks, we will be getting back to these people, getting to know them, and recruiting those we can to the communist movement," he said.

"The YS is more confident and homogeneous coming out of last year's summer schools," Ben Joyce, a YS leader from Albany, New York, told the audience at the closing rally. Joyce, who spent the month prior to the convention building the YS in Atlanta, described how the YS has consolidated itself into an organization over the last year and its plans to continue systematic study and political activity throughout the summer.

Looking forward

At that rally, a panel of speakers presented the next steps the communist movement will be taking coming out of the convention.

Róger Calero, a member of the SWP National Committee, co-chaired the rally along with O'Shaughnessy. Calero introduced the members of the newly elected National Committee. He also introduced the new editor of the *Militant*, Olympia Newton, and the paper's new managing editor, Paul Pederson.

Jim Altenberg, a member of the steering committee of the Print Project that produces and upgrades Pathfinder books, spoke about the accelerating pace of the transformation of the Pathfinder arsenal. Through this project party supporters ensure that the lessons, history, and program of the communist movement remain in print and accessible.

"The last time we gathered in Oberlin, we had upgraded 4 titles. Between then and now, we have completed 19," he said. The upgrades include larger type, indexes, and glossaries that make the books more accessible to workers and youth coming into political activity today. "Our goal is to produce 50 between now and the next time we gather," he said. "And we are confident we can do it." Print Project volunteers participated in workshops coming out of the convention to help organize this effort.

Emily Paul, organizer of the New York YS chapter, spoke about how young socialists are putting the books to use through systematic Marxist education. She described summer education programs in Atlanta, New York, San Francisco, and the Twin Cities focusing on basic works of Marxism and the history of the communist movement.

"The first meeting on *Our History Is Still Being Written* in Australia opened new possibilities for building the communist movement in Asia and the Pacific," said Alaric MacDenny, a leader of the Young Socialists and the Communist League in Australia. MacDenny reviewed openings for communists in Australia and New Zealand to work with professors, students, and Asian community organizations in the coming months.

Paul Clifton, a leader of the Communist League in the United Kingdom, described how the massive influx of immigrant workers from Eastern Europe is opening up new possibilities for the communist movement not only in England and Scotland, but also in other parts of Europe. "This opens up possibilities in new places," said Clifton. "For example a coworker at a meat plant subscribes to the *Militant*. When he went back to his farm in Poland for several months, he had his subscription transferred there."

Over $22,000 was collected and pledged at the rally towards a travel fund appeal. In addition, Dave Prince, announced at the rally that donations of $1,000 or more to a special Capital Fund dedicated to long-term publishing and other needs had exceeded the year's goal of $500,000. By the end of the convention, $512,500 had been pledged.

‘It is not possible to live outside of politics’

Below is an excerpt from Problems of Everyday Life*, one of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month in July. It contains a series of articles by Bolshevik leader Leon Trotsky on social and cultural issues in the struggle to create the foundations for a new society following the October 1917 revolution in Russia. The excerpt is from a speech by Trotsky at the fifth anniversary celebration of the Communist Young Workers’ Hostels on April 29, 1924 entitled “Young people study politics!” Copyright © 1973 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.*

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY LEON TROTSKY

Comrades, not long ago, we released from the Red Army on indefinite leave the class of 1901. On this occasion we carried out in a number of places an inquiry among the men being discharged, questioning them as to what they had learned in the Red Army. From among the answers they gave, one in particular struck my attention, a very brief and expressive answer. I have already quoted it at several meetings. One of the Red Army comrades answered thus: “I have learned about the machine gun and about politics.”



“Young Spartakus,” a youth training regiment, during celebration of the sixth anniversary of the founding of the Red Army, Moscow, Dec. 17, 1923.

Remember that answer, Comrades! It is a very good one; in my opinion the thing could not be better put. As a revolutionary soldier he is obliged to know, as Suvorov said long ago, his military art; he must know his weapon and how to use it, otherwise he will not be a soldier. In this case, evidently, we are dealing with a machine-gunner, whose weapon is the machine gun. “I have learned about the machine gun, and besides that, I have learned about politics,” he says. What does it mean when he says that he has learned about politics? It means that he has learned to understand why he was given a machine gun. So long as he only knows about the machine gun, he is just the slave of the weapon, and cannon fodder in somebody else’s hands; but when he knows what purpose under certain conditions that machine gun is to fulfill in the Red Army, he is a revolutionary fighter, a conscious citizen.

This applies not only to a soldier in the revolutionary army, but to every kind of service in our workers’ and peasants’ country. “What have you learned?” we must ask the young proletarian when he leaves the factory training school. “I have learned about the hammer, the pincers, the plane, and about politics.” And about politics!

You know that in bourgeois countries there is a hypocritical and base notion that the army and the younger generation stand outside politics. This very day, in another connection, I have been looking through Volumes 2 and 3 of Comrade Lenin’s works. (This is in general, Comrades, a very useful occupation—whether one has any special reason for doing it or not—for everybody who has the opportunity to undertake it.)

It so happens that my eye fell upon a number of Lenin’s plain, extremely sharp and merciless observations regarding this base and hypocritical conception about the younger generation being outside politics. We know that the army is in all countries an instrument of politics, or rather, that it serves political ends. When it is said that the army is outside politics, that means: you, soldier, master your machine gun—politics, however, will be looked after by somebody else on your behalf, i.e., obviously, by the ruling class. The bourgeoisie carries out a division of labor. Politics is in its charge; the workers and peasants in the army are cannon fodder, slaves to the machines of destruction. And it is exactly the same as far as the younger generation is concerned, the young workers and peasants, that is. Politics fills the air; *it is not possible to live outside of politics, without politics, any more than one can live without air.*

But the bourgeoisie cannot reveal its political face to the young people. It cannot say: there you are, the twelve- or thirteen-year-old son of a worker; you have been born into the world in order that, after serving an apprenticeship to some trade, you may go into a factory and there to the end of your days create with your sweat, blood, and marrow, surplus value for the lords of life, the bourgeoisie, who, from this surplus value, will create its bourgeois culture, its luxury, art, and learning for its children. . . .

You young comrades are living in a workers’ and peasants’ state. This does not mean that your path through life is a very easy one in the years of your apprenticeship. But I think, nevertheless, that it is already considerably better than it was for the elder generation of the working class in their apprenticeship years. I don’t know whether anybody in our country has collected together the works of literature—Chekhov’s stories, for instance—which deal with the years of apprenticeship, the gloomiest in the life of the working masses. I think that all these stories, sketches, and memoirs of the years of apprenticeship through which every worker passed should be collected and published and made one of the reference books for young people. *It is necessary to learn to hate the old order that we have overthrown but that we are still far, far from having got rid of.* It has bequeathed to us monstrous deposits of ignorance, inertness, crudeness, vulgarity; and all this still surrounds us. And it is for you young comrades to sweep away these deposits. This is why it is very important that the work of mastering the hammer, the pincers, and all the other tools and instruments of production must go hand in hand with the mastering of politics.

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EDITORIAL

Freedom for Genarlow Wilson!

We stand with the 2,000 people who mobilized in Douglasville, Georgia, to demand freedom for Genarlow Wilson.

Wilson, a 21-year-old Black man, has spent nearly three years of his life in prison. He was convicted of "aggravated child molestation"—a felony with a 10 year minimum sentence—after police found a videotape of him and five other 17-year-olds having consensual oral sex with a 15-year-old classmate in 2003.

The convictions brand all six as "sex offenders." Under reactionary laws they will be forced to register publicly as such wherever they live. There is no better example of why working people should demand the abolition of all such laws.

"Cruel and unusual," is what a county court judge called Wilson's sentencing. Cruel it is. But for young Black workers, more than any other section of society, draconian prison sentences for petty offenses are far from unusual.

Black men are more than twice as likely to be unemployed and more than seven times more likely to be imprisoned as whites. Since 1980 the U.S. prison population has more than quadrupled to 2.2 million—60 percent of whom are Black or Hispanic. Through mandatory drug sentencing and other measures the "democratic" rulers of the United States—a country with about 5 percent of the world's population—lock up 24 percent of the world's prisoners.

The Wilson case is exactly how the criminal "justice" system is intended to function. He is being punished for his refusal to plead guilty and be branded a child molester. And he continues to fight for justice from behind prison walls.

His sentence has nothing at all to do with the so-called crime with which he was charged. It is aimed at reminding him and anyone like him of their place in society, and of *who they are* in the eyes of the capitalist rulers.

The cops and courts of the capitalist system offer no justice for working people. They are a weapon of class domination—pure and simple—used by the wealthy minority against the vast toiling majority to undermine solidarity and break people.

Actions like the march in Douglasville should be emulated. This is the road towards winning freedom for Wilson and the hundreds of thousands of young men and women like him trying to defend their humanity from behind the bars that unjustly cage them.

White House: military push key in Iraq

Continued from front page

young Iraqis from Anbar Province into the fight against extremists linked to Al Qaeda in Mesopotamia."

U.S. forces in Ramadi have moved from a large base to more than 100 smaller posts throughout the city. According to the article, an average of 30–35 attacks took place in the province per day in February; by late June, that number was down to one per day.

The Pentagon announced today that similar pacts have been made with sheiks in the largely Sunni Arab Salahuddin Province. In Baquba, the capital of Diyala province, military spokespeople confirmed reports that members of a Baathist militia called the 1920 Revolutionary Brigade provided U.S. forces with information and assisted in the offensive against al-Qaeda.

In addition to al-Qaeda forces, U.S. military operations are also targeting groups in Iraq's Shiite Arab population they claim have links to the Iranian government.

"The fight in Iraq is part of a broader struggle that's unfolding across the region," U.S. president George Bush said in a news conference the day the report was released. "The same regime in Iran that is pursuing nuclear weapons and threatening to wipe Israel off the map is also providing sophisticated IEDs [improvised explosive devices] to extremists in Iraq who are using them to kill American soldiers. The same Hezbollah terrorists who are waging war against the forces of democracy in Lebanon are training extremists to do the same against coalition forces in Iraq."

According to an Associated Press report, U.S. troops killed six Iraqi policemen and seven others today in a battle in eastern Baghdad that erupted after U.S. troops seized a police lieutenant they claim is linked to a branch of Iran's Revolutionary Guards. The day before, five members of the Mahdi militia, a group linked to Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, were killed in an air strike while allegedly planting a roadside bomb.

LETTERS

'¡Salud!'

The review of the film "¡Salud!" in June 25 issue of the Militant goes astray when it says the film's "message is wrong and misleading" because its premise is "that any poor country can do what Cuba has done." The film illustrates the solidarity and selflessness of the Cuban health care workers, characteristics produced following a successful reorganization of society through socialist revolution.

The Cubans providing medical care in countries around the world demonstrate the internationalism of the Cuban Revolution. Not only their direct service is depicted, but Cuba's role in training medical care providers from other countries and helping establish medical facilities. What is demonstrated is a new consciousness engendered by a successful socialist revolution, which produces new human beings not driven by personal gain or greed. Go see this film.

Gary Cohen
Arlington, Massachusetts

Free the Cuban 5

Holding a large banner demanding "Free the Cuban 5," members and supporters of the Australian Cuba Friendship Society (AFCS) faced cold, wet weather in front of the South Australian Parliament House to protest the imprisonment of the Cuban Five and the release of Luis Posada Carriles in the United States.

The Perth branch of the AFCS picketed the U.S. Consulate in Perth in May demanding "Justice for the victims of U.S. sponsored terrorism" and "Free the Cuban Five illegally imprisoned in the U.S."

Two days later the Perth branch held an event to commemorate the death of Jose Marti, at which the documentary "Mission Against Terror" was shown. This documentary tells the story of the arrest and imprisonment of the Cuban Five. Participants were encouraged to write to the imprisoned Cubans, and the meeting closed with chants of "Free the Five!" and "Extradite Posada Carriles!"

Kate Rodda
Adelaide, Australia

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

'Militant' summer schedule

This issue of the *Militant* is a two-week issue. The next issue will come off the press August 2. The paper will publish biweekly for the remainder of the summer. We will resume weekly publication with the issue coming off the press August 30.

Pakistan offensive

Continued from front page

Revolution" in Pakistan, according to press reports. Clerics conducted a "Taliban-style anti-vice campaign," the *Financial Times* reported, abducting women accused of violating Islamic law and handing down a religious edict against the country's female tourism minister after she was photographed receiving a congratulatory embrace from a parachute instructor in France.

Demonstrations against the attack called in cities across Pakistan Saturday drew a couple thousand people—a smaller turnout than anticipated by the religious schools and coalition of bourgeois religious parties that called them. A wave of anti-government bombings and other attacks spread through Pakistan's northern region near the Afghan border over the weekend.

Tribal leaders in the border region announced they were ending a 10-month "peace" agreement with the administration of President Pervez Musharraf. Under that agreement, tribal leaders agreed to use their militias to police the region and prevent cross-border raids into Afghanistan in exchange for the Pakistani government withdrawing its military troops.

"Extremism and terrorism will be defeated in every corner of the country," Musharraf said in a nationally televised address July 12. He also said that he would "never allow a mosque or a madrassah to ever be misused in the future."

In the last several months leading to the clash at the mosque, pressure had been growing on the Musharraf administration to take action against Taliban militias and other forces operating within Pakistan.

In an attempt to counter a growing opposition to his eight-year rule by bourgeois forces that have mobilized many in the middle classes, Musharraf has allowed Islamist groups to function largely unchecked to garner support from religious parties.

The Musharraf regime—once the protector of the Taliban—was transformed into an unstable but staunch strategic ally of Washington following the toppling of the Taliban regime in the 2001 U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan. Washington has been pressing Islamabad to take greater control of the border region in the recent period, complaining that it's used as a safe haven by Taliban and al-Qaeda forces.

"We have seen the Taliban pooling, planning and training in the north-west territories. There was an agreement with the tribal chiefs that president Musharraf did. It is not working the way he wanted, it is not working the way we want it," said U.S. president George Bush's national security advisor Stephen Hadley

While expressing support to the troop deployment, Hadley said, "We are urging him to do more." In the three years since the invasion of Afghanistan, Washington's military aid to Pakistan soared to $4.2 billion compared to $9.1 million over the three previous years.

"Whether Gen Musharraf's deployment of force against the mosque marks a turning point in the government's approach to combating violent extremism is unclear," read an article in the July 11 *Financial Times*. "If that were to prove the case, it could consolidate international support for the beleaguered general, alleviating the pressure he is facing to exit politics and restore democracy."

Corrections

The photo caption and introduction to the Book of the Month column in the July 9 issue titled "Castro in 1971 Chile visit warned of imperialist threats" inaccurately state that the overthrow of the government of Salvador Allende occurred on November 11, 1973. The Allende government was overthrown on September 11, 1973.

The article in the July 23 issue titled "Protesters condemn 'Quincy Four' verdict" incorrectly said Karen Chen was sentenced to 10 days of incarceration. She was given 18 months probation for resisting arrest.